OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



WASHINGTON, DC'S OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY

July 16, 2007



WHEREAS, 217 years ago today, the Residence Act of 1790 was signed into law, designating 10 square miles along the Potomac River as the permanent capital city of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's capital, the District of Columbia has played a vital role in the history of the nation and the world; Washington, DC was the location of the first slaves freed by Congress, the site of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech", and the battleground for both the War of 1812 and the Civil War; and



WHEREAS, since the signing of the Residence Act, the District of Columbia has grown into a thriving metropolis which is home for 581,000 residents who are denied the same freedoms as other citizens of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, today both the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia look forward to the President signing a bill that was passed by Congress to grant the citizens of Washington, DC a vote in the House of Representatives to end more than 200 years of disenfranchisement:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2007, as "WASHINGTON, DC's OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY".

Adrian M. Fenty

Mayor, District of Columbia